

Entry approved
1/23/02

STEREOMICROSCOPE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 [0001] The present application is the U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/013403 filed November 28, 2003, which claims priority of German Application No. 102 55 965.1 filed November 29, 2002.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The invention concerns a stereomicroscope for magnifying an object by means of at least one zoom through which, in the operating state, an object beam emitted from the object is directed.

10 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A stereomicroscope of this kind is known, for example, from EP-A2-1 120 676 and from US-A-5 822 114. For better comprehension of this cited existing art, the reader is referred to Fig. 2 of EP-A2-1 120 676, which comprises in large part arrangements similar to those in FIG. 1 of the present invention. The reference numbers 15 of EP-A2-1 120 676 have been largely carried over to the description of the present FIG. 1 and the Parts List, so that one skilled in the art can easily recognize the known assemblage as well as differences with respect to the present invention.

[0004] In the design of stereomicroscopes, it is generally desirable to keep the overall height as low as possible, on the one hand in order to minimize the eye-object distance (i.e. the distance between the observer's eye and the object being viewed), and on the 20 other hand to achieve – in the event the stereomicroscope is used as a surgical microscope – the smallest and most compact design possible, which is also intended to have a favorable effect on moving masses.

[0005] In normal operation of a conventional stereomicroscope that is not in a 25 pivoted position, the beam paths that pass through the main objective and the zoom are arranged approximately vertically.